United Nations A/53/167

General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 July 1998

Original: English

Fifty-third session
Items 46, 59, 106 and 113 of the preliminary list*

Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters

Advancement of women

Human rights questions

Letter dated 6 July 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose the document entitled "Indictment by the Committee for Investigation of Damage caused by the Japanese Imperialists during their Occupation of Korea".

I would appreciate it if you could have the above document circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 46, 59, 106 and 113.

(*Signed*) Li Hyong Chol
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/53/50.

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Annex

Forcible drafting of Koreans by the Japanese State was an enormous criminal kidnapping

The Committee for Investigation of Damages Caused by the Japanese Imperialists during their Occupation of Korea of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea made public the following indictment denouncing the forcible drafting of Koreans by the Japanese imperialists as an enormous criminal kidnapping committed by the Japanese State.

Indictment by the Committee for Investigation of Damages Caused by the Japanese Imperialists during their Occupation of Korea.

It is already a well-established fact that the Japanese imperialists imposed great immeasurable disasters and misfortunes, pains and sacrifices upon the Korean people during their aggression and military occupation of Korea.

According to the data published so far, Japan kidnapped and arrested young and middle-aged Koreans, numbering more than six million, during its colonial rule over Korea and used them as tools for its war of aggression. It went to the length of committing the bestial atrocity of massacring them by the cruelest methods because it was fearful of the possible exposure of its barbarous crimes to the public.

The past criminal acts of kidnapping and arrest by Japan in our country culminated in barbarity and viciousness, the precedent of which has never been found in human history.

It is par for the course that defeated Japan should have investigated the truth of its kidnapping and arrest of Koreans, which engraved deep-seated enmity in the Korean people, and should have made an apology for such crimes.

The present century is coming to an end, but Japan has not yet admitted nor apologized for the unethical kidnapping of the Koreans it committed in the first half of the twentieth century. On the contrary, it is employing every conceivable means to bury the criminal kidnapping in oblivion. Japan is kicking up a racket against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea over the fictitious "suspected kidnapping" and is making an impudent foolish attempt to conceal its true colours as an assailant and, instead, to paint itself as a sufferer.

History can neither be falsified nor obliterated.

In fact, it is clear that reluctance to admit a past crime without drawing a lesson from it will lead to a repetition of the crime.

Today, the Japanese authorities behave in such a way.

The Committee for Investigation of Damages Caused by the Japanese Imperialists during their Occupation of Korea makes public this indictment to denounce the forcible drafting of Koreans committed by Japan and thereby to give a warning of the dangerous acts of Japan and to prevent the unprecedented catastrophe caused by the Japanese imperialists from recurring on this planet.

1. The forcible drafting of Koreans by the Japanese imperialists was an enormous criminal kidnapping committed by the Japanese State.

Japan is a crime-ridden country, a kingpin of kidnapping with a historical record of "kidnapping".

Historically, Japan has maintained its existence by getting engrossed in kidnapping, plunder and looting against other nations. And kidnapping has become its major State policy.

Let us give a careful scrutiny to the not-too-distant period of the Imjin Fatherland War (1592-1598), 400 years ago.

At that time, Japanese samurai had invaded Korea and kidnapped in groups a number of Korean technicians, experts and innocent people in a broad daylight.

Around 10,000 Koreans kidnapped by Japan were repatriated thanks to the superb diplomatic efforts of Yujong (Samyongdang) at the talks for the restoration of Korea-Japan relations following the Imjin War. This fact alone shows how many Koreans were kidnapped by Japan during that period.

Being accustomed to kidnapping, the Japanese imperialists abducted even the royal family members of the Li dynasty without any hesitation. In 1907, Hirobumi Ito, the then "Resident-General" of Korea, who was the ringleader of aggression in Korea, kidnapped Li Un, the Crown Prince and son of Emperor Kojong, to Japan. The Japanese rulers forced the kidnapped Crown Prince to marry a Japanese princess. In 1925, Japan also kidnapped Emperor Kojong's daughter.

In the twentieth century, the Japanese imperialists abducted and forcibly drafted young and middle-aged Koreans by dint of the Government and military authorities, which, in terms of barbarity, is the biggest criminal abduction, far surpassing the slave-hunting of medieval ages.

Forcible arrest of people by illegal means is precisely kidnapping and it is defined as a criminal act by the domestic laws of each country and by international laws.

The policy of forced drafting-kidnapping of the Korean people by the Japanese imperialists in the past is, indeed, a political and human persecution based on colonial plunder and purposeful national extinction, which constitutes a criminal act against humanity.

The motive of the Japanese imperialists for committing the forced drafting and kidnapping lies in the fact that it was a direct result of the adventurous war of aggression provoked by Japan itself.

As the Japanese war maniacs escalated their war of aggression, they were faced with a shortage of arms and labour.

The enormous human and material consumption incurred from the expansion of the war fronts completely drained Japan of its force of arms and labour, which the Japanese imperialists tried to compensate for in colonial Korea.

In order to conscript and draft the Korean labour force with Government authority, the Japanese imperialists concocted and enforced forcibly such evil laws as the "State Law on General Mobilization" (April 1938) and the "National Draft Order" (July 1939) in Korea.

When the Japanese imperialists suffered one defeat after another on the war fronts, they fabricated and effectuated evil laws, including the "Revised National Draft Order" (September 1943), the "Draft Order for All Middle-Aged Men", the "Student Labour Order"

and the "Women Voluntary Service Corps Labour Order" (August 1944), by which they forcibly conscripted all young and middle-aged Koreans, irrespective of their profession, age and sex, and drove them into a hell of drudgery.

At the beginning of the 1940s, when the war unfolded in scope, the Japanese imperialists openly committed kidnapping and forced drafting under the disguise of indiscriminate "draft" and "conscription" orders, shaking off even the veil of so-called "recruitment of labourers" and "good services of government" orders, whose forms, coupled with coercion and force, could find their precedents at the initial stage of the war.

The kidnapping method employed by the Japanese imperialists was a combination of abduction and power, the latter being the main play and the former supported by the latter.

One of the publications issued in Japan to disclose the truth of the situation noted that "First, the draft through ' recruitment' conducted by enterprises requisitioned a labour force by beguiling people with honeyed words, into a 'two-year contract'. Over 200,000 people were drafted through this recruitment method. Second, the Japanese Government-General of Korea and its body organ, the Korean Labour Association, used, in the main, the form of 'good offices of government' thereby drafting about 260,000 people. Third, the Japanese Government forcibly drafted through its conscription order. This was conducted using most brutal methods. It was, in fact, 'man-hunting'. Over 400,000 people are said to have been drafted within only a one-year period of the conscription order in 1939. It is impossible to say how many people were drafted by the time of defeat in 1945." ("Chosen Jiho" 29 March 1990)

This data represents a naked exposure of the craftiness and savagery of the kidnapping method of the Japanese colonialists, while characterizing the style of forced drafting of the Koreans as "man-hunting".

Kamada, a Japanese who had joined in forced drafting of the Koreans at the time, testified that "the most cruel one was the drafting of labour. As the war became fierce, gradually ... allocation of labour draftees became considerably strict. We could not attain the required number at all if we were to persuade them to come forward. Therefore, clerks in charge of labour from country offices or *myon* offices either made a surprise raid on houses where men slept late at night and early in the morning or drove trucks to take them unhesitatingly when they were working in paddy and non-paddy fields. Later, we sent them in groups to the coal mines in Hokkaido or Kyushu. We committed violent acts alleging that we could discharge our duty by so doing." ("Chosen Shinwa" Jawaitsiro Kamada, 1950 edition)

Those victims who had once been dragged off for the purpose of "draft", "conscription" and "volunteer service corps" unanimously testify that the process of their forcible requisition was not simply "recruitment", but forced abduction, kidnapping and arrest.

Mr. Pak Sang Jin, who had narrowly escaped death during a hell of drudgery after being kidnapped by the Japanese imperialists, attested to the process of his abduction to Japan stating that, "I used to sleep hidden on a straw mat at night for about one year, for I knew by hearsay that some people had been kidnapped in a sudden raid on their houses during sleep. However, one day I was caught. A clerk and a policeman from the *myon* office and a labour officer of the Saga Coal Mine were at home. When I was dragged to the *myon* office, they told me 'You must go to Japan as you are a draftee. If you work hard for three years, you can surely come back home.' Hopelessly, I was driven to Pusan where I saw about 200 people gathered. It was in 1943." ("Historical Materials from Korea Monthly", September 1974 edition)

Mr. Kim Se Guk, who lives in Daedongmun-dong of the Central District of the Pyongyang City, swore that "At the age of 14, when I lived in at Solmae-dong, Songjang-myon of Uiju county, North Phyongan Province, I was kidnapped by the Japanese imperialists to do unimaginable toilsome work. At that time, I used to attend the Simsang public primary school in Songjang. ... A few days before graduation, a Japanese teacher, Sadaru Kudo, called me and Jang In Guk to say 'You are to go to Japan' and forcibly took us to Sinuiju unexpectedly. He did not even accept our request to see our parents. When we were forcibly driven to the agency of a stock company in Sinuiju, there were already 80 young girls and 20 boys of my age. Like me, they were all forcibly abducted. There the Japanese put on a tag named 'Ryokichi Kaneda' around my neck. They even tried to deprive me of my name and make me their lifelong employee. Thus I was drafted to Japan."

The kidnapping nature of the forced drafting has been further brought to light by the investigation of forcible drafting of the Korean women as "comfort women for the army".

Mr. Seiji Yoshida, one of those who were in charge of the forced drafting of the "comfort women for the army", disclosed that their forced drafting as "comfort women" was ordered by the then supreme authorities. He went on to testify that "Over 1,000 'comfort women' had been forcibly drafted under my direct command alone. How we drafted them ... We called together all of the villagers at one place. Although about 100-200 villagers in all gathered there, we could only get four or five women draftees for the 'voluntary service corps'. Policemen mercilessly beat down the escapees with wooden swords. Women with babies on their back ran half-mad. But we separated the babies from their mothers and threw them to the old women. Then we grabbed the women by the hair and dragged them ruthlessly to a van. It is still clear in my memory even now that a 3 or 4-year-old kid was running after the van in tears. In a word, it was really a man-hunt ... To make it clear, we did not recruit the 'comfort women for the army', but kidnapped them by force. In those days, nobody willingly agreed to the recruitment for the 'voluntary service corps'. It was in Korea where we mainly abducted 'comfort women for the army' by force."

According to testimonies of the witnesses of the "comfort women for the army', who narrowly escaped death, the then Japanese imperialists took young girls hidden under their mothers' skirts and playing in house yards by force. They also abducted girls by cajoling them into good jobs. They kidnapped and drafted girls who went out to their relatives and even engaged and married women.

Kim Gun Suk, victim of the "comfort women for the army" operation residing at the Daepyong-ri, Pyihyon County, testified as follows; "I used to go to school in Seoul before liberation. One day in August 1938, I was caught in a 'girl-hunt' of the Japanese imperialists while playing at a park with my schoolmates Gyong Suk and Yong Ja. Three Japanese pounced upon us and took us to the railway station without any reason where they put us into a wagon like baggage to send us to Feng-tian in Manchuria." Ri Chun Hwa, whose address is the Township of Rinsan County, also testified, as follows; "One day in July 1940, a Japanese called Nakahara showed up at the landlord's house where I worked as a farmhand. He made a plot with the landlord and lured me out to the Sariwon station, saying that he would send me to a place to make good money. It was when I arrived at the station that I knew I had been taken in. Kim Yong Ja, who was born in Cholla Province and lived together in the same village, was put in the train. She was stained with blood all over because of the beating she was given by the Japanese. She was forced to go to the station while her husband was out at work. There were several such women."

That is why even the authorities in the "Government-General of Korea" could not but admit the kidnapping nature of the forced drafting of the Koreans committed by the Japanese

State, saying "the worst was the kidnapping of human beings ... took them by force as victims of war." ("Korea under the Pacific War" p. 25, (2))

The criminal kidnapping of Koreans by Japan, which took discrimination, contempt, maltreatment and murder of other nations as its way of existence, is nothing but an unethical and inhuman war crime which had negated the human rights and dignity of human beings.

2. Dual crimes of Japan in massacring kidnapped young and middle-aged Koreans in groups.

Samurai made a living by murder and war. As their descendants, the Japanese militarists began overseas aggression upon the seizing of power by the Meiji Imperial restoration in 1868, following which the Japanese modern history for the next 100 years was, indeed, recorded as the history of wars of aggression stained with blood.

Elated by the armed defeat of the Qing Dynasty and Russia in the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-1895 and the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905, the Japanese militarists conquered Korea in 1905, occupied the whole of Manchuria in 1931 by fabricating the "18 September Incident" and, at last, provoked the Pacific War in 1941.

The Japanese imperialists made surprise attacks on and occupied the south-east Asian countries including Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines and many islands in the Pacific, one after another.

All the areas occupied by the Japanese army of aggression turned into places of deadly backbreaking labour, a living hell for the forcibly drafted young and middle-aged Koreans. In his report submitted to his Government, the former Director of Finance in the Japanese "Government-General of Korea", Naohiro Mizda, wrote as follows: "Since the outbreak of the war against east-Asia, we have sent considerably large number of Korean workers as the personnel necessary for ground and navy forces, the largest number being 32,248 as patriotic working corps for the navy for urgent engineering works in the southern region, at the request of the navy after September 1941. To meet the requirements of the ground forces, we sent 7,061 persons needed for the paymasters' department of the Northern Army, 3,223 for prisoner of war surveillance and 1,320 for the transportation department. We also recommended and sent many personnel to the Japanese islands, Manchuria, China and the south Pacific, not excepting Korea." ("Policy rule in Korea during the end of the Pacific War" pp. 155-156)

This report proves that the Japanese imperialists drove the forcibly drafted Koreans into slave labour on every front under their occupation.

Although it is still buried behind a black curtain, the "Voice of Asia" (Vol. 2, p. 84) counts 1-1.5 million Korean people as having been forcibly drafted to several islands of the Pacific and the southern area.

The Japanese aggression army took the forcibly drafted Korean young men and women as labourers for the military and "comfort women for the army" to all battlefields, posts, bases, ports and even out-stations of front-bases which they had occupied, including the Chinese mainland, Viet Nam, Myanmar, Malaysia, the Philippines and several islands of the Pacific, and finally massacred them in groups.

Here are some materials which show a portion of the killing and atrocities committed by the Japanese imperialists.

When the United States marine corps began landing on the island of Guadalcanal, where Japanese occupation forces were stationed in August 1941, Major Okamura, commander of the construction corps, drove more than two thousand Korean workers, who had been mobilized in the construction of an air-base, into the forest where they died of hunger or disease and the rest were shot to death for the reason that they would surrender to the United States army. ("The Last of Imperial Army" pp. 14-16)

Of the 121 dead Koreans who worked at Hajima coal mine, well known as a devil's island, 63 died from accidents and 15 from trauma-caused bruises and rupture of the intestines, which meant that they died of cruel torture by the Japanese. ("The Scene of Forced Draft, Contempt and Maltreatment" issue No. 5, 1980)

According to the materials, about 40,000 young Korean men and women met tragic deaths, 2,800 at Makin, 1,600 at Tarawa, 6,000 at Kwajalein, 7,000 at Kosrae, 800 at Maloelap, in the Marshall Islands; 1,900 at Iwo Jima; 1,200 at Saipan, 4,000 at Truk, in the Mariana Islands; 5,000 at several islands in the Kuril Islands; 1,500 at Kerama in Okinawa; 2,500 at Woorp island and 2,063 at New Guinea.

The majority of the forcibly drafted "comfort women for the army" died from physical suffering caused by the Japanese soldiers or were brutally slaughtered individually or in groups by the Japanese imperialists.

Arafune, former deputy speaker of the House of Representatives from the Liberal Democratic Party, once told the voters that "143,000 Korean comfort women died. They were murdered by the Japanese army."

These pieces of information illustrate how far the intentional massacre of the forcibly kidnapped and drafted Koreans by the Japanese imperialists went.

* * *

Forced drafting of young and middle-aged Koreans by the Japanese imperialists is the never-to-be-pardoned crime against humanity and the unprecedented enormous crime of kidnapping committed by the Japanese State.

The Committee for Investigation of Damages Caused by the Japanese Imperialists during their Occupation of Korea has presented here only a few materials related to the crimes of kidnapping, drafting and genocide committed by Japanese imperialism against the Korean people.

Several hundreds of thousands or millions of people have been direct victims of the kidnapping, drafting and genocide carried out by the Japanese imperialists. And such atrocious criminal acts have left indelible wounds and grudges for our people.

This notwithstanding, Japan, as the real criminal in the kidnapping crime, is indifferent to its past crimes and rather behaves itself as a thief who turns on the master with a club, kicking up a racket against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea under the pretext of a fictitious "suspected kidnapping", against us the very people who are the victims of the crime.

It needs no further explanation that such a Japanese farce as calling black white cannot hold water at all in today's bright world.

The illegal and brutal acts on the part of Japan, which claims itself to be a "law-governed State", constitute a challenge to and a mockery of the conscience and justice of the world.

Eyewitnesses to the miserable history and the victims who were kidnapped and abducted by the Japanese imperialists to be forced into slave labour in a living hell and "comfort women for the army", used as cannon fodder of the Japanese aggression army, painfully cry out, denouncing their oppressors and vowing that they will never forget the most heinous atrocities committed by the Japanese imperialists, even after death.

Furthermore, the whereabouts of tens of thousands of abducted Koreans have not been discovered in the more than half a century since the Japanese defeat, while their kith and kin and friends have kept their fingers crossed for news of them every day, with deep-rooted rancour against Japan soaring beyond control.

The abduction, forced draft and genocide committed by the Japanese imperialists have been condemned and denounced in Asia, which suffered from horrible disasters due to the aggression of the Japanese imperialists in the past, and also in many other parts of the world, including the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Raised high, at the same time, are voices calling on the Japanese authorities to honestly admit to and apologize for their grave crimes committed before the humanity.

This is the manifestation of condemnation and just claims by the world against Japan, which is not willing to leave behind its past of crime.

Even after committing the grave crimes against humanity, unprecedented in the history of mankind, Japan has been accustomed to justify them and to shift the blame onto others. This brazen-faced act on the part of Japan can by no means be pardoned.

Although Japan is now desperate, in its mean trickery, to bury its past crimes in the darkness of history, justice and conscience will always judge history correctly and Japan will certainly stand on the stern trial of history for its past crimes stained with blood, whether it wishes to or not.

The Japanese authorities should know clearly that the longer they delay sincere reflection on their past of crimes, the louder the voices of denunciation of the victims and world conscience will echo, incurring greater cost therefrom.

The Japanese authorities should stop hanging onto such foolish manoeuvres as playing tricks and making plots, while ridiculing the conscience of the world by wearing the mask of the victim. Rather, they must recognize their full responsibility for all criminal acts, including the forced drafting of Koreans, and investigate and make public the true state of things.

Open-hearted reflection on and apology for the crimes of its own making are the only way out for Japan.

At present, it is a common task of mankind to safeguard human dignity and human rights to bring pressure upon the Japanese authorities to honestly admit to and sincerely apologize for its unheard-of crimes of forced drafting of the Koreans.

The Committee for Investigation of Damage caused by the Japanese Imperialists during their Occupation of Korea appeals once again to the justice and conscience of the world to lift up their voices of condemnation against the shameless acts of the Japanese authorities.

Pyongyang, June 22, Juche 87 (1998)